

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 11, 2003, claims 1, 4-11, 14-17 and 19-21 are amended and claims 2, 3, 12, 13 and 16 are cancelled. Claims 1, 4-11, 14, 15 and 17-25 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

The indication that claims 5, 7, 1-15, 20 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and if noted indefiniteness is overcome, is acknowledged and appreciated.

By this response, claim 11 is amended to include the limitations of claims 12 and 13, now cancelled, and claims 14 and 15 are respectively amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of claims 11 and 12. Consequently, claims 11, 14 and 15 should be allowable.

OBJECTION TO CLAIMS AND REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 1, 4-7, 10, 14, 16, 17 and 19-21 are objected to for having a number of informalities, and claims 6-7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In support of the rejection, the Examiner identifies phrases in claims 6 and 15 that are deemed confusing and/or lack clear antecedent basis. By this response, each of the noted informalities and points of indefiniteness as to the pending claims has been appropriately addressed. Specifically, non-sequiturs are eliminated and confusing and/or vague language deleted in favor of language believed to recite the invention with the degree of precision and particularity required by the statute. Therefore, it is respectfully urged that the objection and rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Pei et al. (hereinafter, Pei), for the reasons of record.

Claims 3, 6, 8-10, 12, 16-19, 21 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pei et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 4 and 11 above, and further in view of Daniel et al., for the reasons of record.

As to claims 3 and 17, the Examiner admits that Pei does not teach the use of an external controller for storing the programmable information entries into the table as recited in claims 3 and 17. However, the Examiner maintains that “Daniel et al. teach that it is known to provide an ATMCSI/TU in which a programmable CPU tightly coupled to multiple hardware-coprocessors whereby the interface between the CPU and the hardware coprocessors is defined by multiple data structures which provide bi-directional control and status signaling between the multiple hardware elements and the CPU as set forth at col. 6 lines 55-61 in the filed of digital and multiplex communications for the purpose of freeing the APU from doing repetitive data manipulation tasks, while these tasks are performed by one or more hardware-implemented coprocessors using memory mapped data structures and linked lists of data which clearly anticipate the use of an external controller for storing the programmable information entries into the table memory...” However, column 6, lines 55-61 only describe:

Another object for this invention is to provide such an ATMCSI/TU in which a programmable CPU is tightly coupled to multiple hardware-coprocessors. The interface between the CPU and the hardware coprocessors is to be defined by multiple data structures which provide bi-directional control and status signaling between the multiple hardware elements and the CPU.

The question that arises is, where is the description “for the purpose of freeing the APU from doing repetitive data manipulation tasks, while these tasks are performed by one or more

hardware-implemented coprocessors using memory mapped data structures and linked lists of data...”? This description cannot be found and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner identify the specific location in Daniel et al. that describes this.

Furthermore, the Examiner cannot disregard the description of the both the Scheduler Unit 46, beginning at column 21, line 30, and the description of the Cell Buffer Memory 68 beginning at column 28, line 13. With respect to the Cell Buffer Memory 68 in particular, the interface 180 for the CBM 68 (FIG. 13) would appear to correspond to the claimed external memory interface. There is nothing in this description that describes that programmable information entries used by the scheduler for selectively assigning memory access slots of the external memory are stored in an assignment table memory (of the interface) by an external controller. Clearly, the Examiner's reference to the object at column 6, lines 55-61 is not carried forth to this specific description of the interface 180 for the CBM 68. Consequently, there is nothing in Daniel et al. that discloses or suggests that programmable information entries used by the scheduler for selectively assigning memory access slots of the external memory are stored in an assignment table memory (of the interface) by an external controller. Therefore, the inventions recited in claims 3 and 17 do not result even if the (actual) teaching of Daniel et al. is used to modify the arrangement of Pei. More specifically, the only basis for combining the (actual) teaching of Daniel et al. with the arrangement of Pei to arrive at the claimed invention is based up improper hindsight considerations, using the present disclosure as a guide. However, Applicants' disclosure may not properly be relied upon to support the ultimate legal conclusion of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103. *Panduit Corp. v. Dennison Mfg. Co.*, 810 F.2d 1561, 227 1 USPQ2d 1593 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Consequently, dependent claim 3 and independent claim 17 are patentable over Pei and Daniel et al., considered alone or in combination, as are claims 18-25, depending from independent claim 17.

To expedite prosecution, claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3, now cancelled, and claims 8 and 9 are amended to depend from amended claim 1. Consequently, amended independent claim 1, as well as dependent claims 4-10, are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

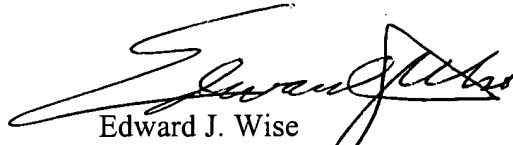
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

09/317,156

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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